

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action – Restriction and/or Election Requirement is being submitted in response to the non-final Office Action mailed April 5, 2007. Claims 1 – 19 are pending in the Application. Claims 1 – 19 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Claims 1 – 19 – Restriction and/or Election Requirement:

Examiner indicates that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Group I: Claims 1 – 16, drawn to an optical device comprised of a photodetector circuit, a serial-to-parallel conversion circuit, a forward error correction circuit, a parallel-to-serial conversion circuit, and an optical emitter, classified in class 398, subclass 182; or

Group II: Claims 17 – 19, drawn to an optical communications device comprising a plurality of encoders, a plurality of optical emitters, an optical multiplexer, an optical demultiplexer, a plurality of photodetectors, and a plurality of forward error correction decoders, classified in class 398, subclass 79.

Applicants hereby elect to prosecute **Claims 1 – 16 of Group I**, drawn to an optical device comprised of a photodetector circuit, a serial-to-parallel conversion circuit, a forward error correction circuit, a parallel-to-serial conversion circuit, and an optical emitter, with traverse, and withdraw Claims 17 – 19 of Group II, to an optical communications device comprising a plurality of encoders, a plurality of optical emitters, an optical multiplexer, an optical demultiplexer, a plurality of photodetectors, and a plurality of forward error correction decoders, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits.

CONCLUSION

Applicants would like to thank Examiner for the attention and consideration accorded the Application. Should Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place the Application in condition for allowance, Examiner is encouraged to contact undersigned Counsel at the telephone number, facsimile number, address, or email address provided below. It is not believed that any fees for additional claims, extensions of time, or the like are required beyond those that may otherwise be indicated in the documents accompanying this paper. However, if such additional fees are required, Examiner is encouraged to notify undersigned Counsel at Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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